

JAMES HAT-TRICK PUTS WYCOMBE IN COUNTY CUP FINAL

Wycombe Wanderers 3,
Wokingham 1.

By 'NOVA'

FOR the second week in succession Wycombe Wanderers took a three-goal lead against ten men when they met Wokingham in the semi-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup competition at Marlow on Saturday — and this time they did not throw it away.

But this was not an impressive win. Indeed when Wokingham returned to full strength in the second half they scored the only goal of the period and left Wycombe supporters wondering what might have happened had they been at full strength all the time.

Both teams played at a slow pace but at least Wokingham had the excuse of being a man short for part of the time.

The only Wycombe forwards who did not look jaded were Tony Horseman and Peter James. James scored his fifth hat-trick of the season, taking advantage of defensive errors for two of the goals, and he and Horseman were the only forwards who looked capable of scoring.

Again it was the defenders who took the honours. John Beck and Dave Thomas were again in great form. Thomas played a tireless game, breaking up attacks one second and splitting the opposing defence the next, and Beck often forged upfield in an effort to inspire the forwards. He was unlucky not to score on two occasions!

CAPTAIN HURT

John Fisher was continually urging his colleagues to speed the game up and he and Ashby, who played well until he tired

in the second half, and Lewis all gave good cover to Ken Brown.

The pattern of the game was set after seven minutes, when Wokingham's right-back and captain, Ian McMinn, was taken off with a bad cut under the eye. From then on Wycombe were on top for the rest of the first half.

George Blair and John Beck both went close before a picture centre from Len Worley was headed home by Peter James.

Eleven minutes later, when Blair headed the ball goalwards, right-half Mortimer miskicked and James seized on the ball to score his second.

Barely three minutes elapsed before James got his third. A long kick from Ken Brown was missed by centre-half Peter Roystone—the only mistake he made during the game. Howson and James both went after it and as the goalkeeper advanced Howson slipped it through for James to score easily.

McMinn returned in the second half but at first the Wanderers contrived to dictate the play.

Thomas nearly scored with a free-kick, Howson shot wide when well placed, and Ashby had yet another well saved by Merryweather.

But Wokingham now started to put some fight into their play and 34 minutes after the resumption Glanville scored following a goalmouth scramble.

But instead of the game flaring up into a thriller in the last ten minutes it petered out tamely.